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AND

NAVAL JOURNAL,

PUBLISHED BY THE

AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY,

TO WHICH THE WHOLE PROFITS OF THE WORK BELONG.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, AT \$1 PER ANNUM.

VOLUME XXV

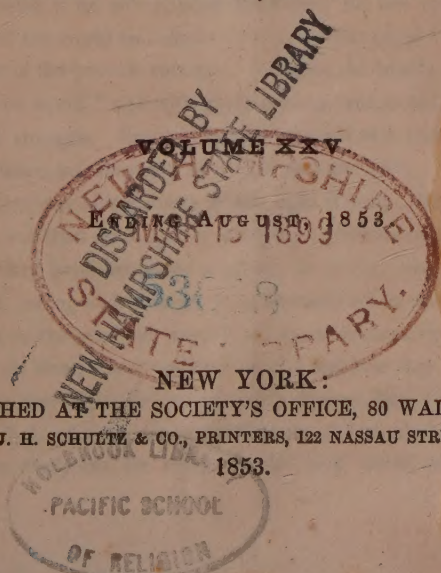
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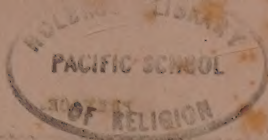
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PREFACE

TO THE

TWENTY-FIFTH VOLUME.

It is some consolation, in attempting to write a *Preface* to the Twenty-Fifth Volume of the Sailor's Magazine, on a hot July evening, to know, it matters little what is written, since there is so little probability of its ever being read. One reason why a preface is so seldom read, probably is, that it has generally so little connexion with the book. Like a long exordium, never delivered, when an orator is full of his theme, it is never read when a book is very interesting. We have some evidence of the increasing popular interest, either in the Magazine or the cause it advocates, in the more than thirteen hundred increase to its subscription list during the last year. Why should not the eyes of the world be turned to our field—our cause? In the language of one article in the present volume; "Without the bauble of a crown Commerce rules the world," and with every passing year, is its dominion growing in extent and strength. Scarcely a year leaves it as it found it, in the applications of science and discovery to its interests and ends. It no longer *paddles* its perilous way along coasts by star light, it seems even about to fold its white wings, and trust no longer to changing currents and varying winds, for Fitch and Fulton have harnessed a volcano to its car; and Ericson the last year has been taming and breaking in a Tornado for its chariot steed; while Maury intent on the good old way, would know whence come the winds, and whither they do blow, where rise the currents and how they do flow.

At the same time a political world in convulsions, has set all nations afloat, and like the flight of the elect from the sack of Jerusalem, they come from every land, on every sea, for refuge to this new world, and the gathering,

rushing multitudes, tax commerce to the utmost power of its swift ships by wind and steam and heated air, to bear them in their flight.

Nor does a year leave the moral aspects of the sea as it found them. Government by brute force has been legislated out of our ships, and drunkard-making is to be followed by the force of a Maine Law from Maine to California, till the sailor, sober at sea, shall be sober on land too.

Grace, too, is triumphant on the sea, and many are the sons of Zion there.

Such are the themes of our book. Have they not been growing in importance and interest, year by year, for these twenty-five? What is in the future for the cause, or the book that advocates it? The prophet has told us, "The abundance of the sea are converted to Zion, the fullness of the nations are come unto her"!

May he who writes the preface to the fiftieth volume say, "This volume commences a new series, the original design of the work having been accomplished."

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